

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA AND THE IEA

REF: PARIS 11272

1. SUMMARY. INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LANTZKE HAS REPORTED A HIGHLY FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TOWARD IEA MEMBERSHIP AMONG SENIOR OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE MET DURING RECENT VISIT TO CANBERRA. LANTZKE AND AUSTRALIAN PERMDEL OFFICIALS THINK PROSPECTS ARE STRONG FOR GOA DECISION THIS YEAR TO JOIN IEA. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING HIS RECENT VISIT TO CANBERRA (REFTEL), IEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LANTZKE HAS REPORTED A HIGHLY POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD IEA MEMBERSHIP AMONG SENIOR GOA OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN A REVIEW OF THIS QUESTION. LANTZKE MET COLLECTIVELY WITH THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED TO CONSIDER IEA MEMBERSHIP AND INDIVIDUALLY WITH KEY CABINET MEMBERS CONCERNED WITH ENERGY. WHILE HE DETECTED SOME CONTINUED RESISTANCE TO IEA MEMBERSHIP WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, LANTZKE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 13975 290010Z

SAID MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WHO HAS STRONG INFLUENCE ON ENERGY POLICY, INDICATED HE WAS PREPARED TO JOIN IEA IMMEDIATELY. (NOTE: DURING INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING HERE, CHAIRMAN WOODS WHO WE UNDERSTAND WILL BECOME PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THAT SAME MINISTRY INDICATED HE STRONGLY FAVORED IEA MEMBERSHIP.) LANTZKE SAID GOA OFFICIALS WERE WELL

BRIEFED ON REQUIREMENTS FOR IEA ADHERENCE. MAIN
SUBSTANTIVE
PROBLEM RAISED WAS DIFFICULTY GOA WOULD FIND IN
MEETING EMERGENCY OIL STOCK REQUIREMENT DUE TO COST,
LACK OF RELIABLE STOCK DATA, AND CONSTITUTIONAL
DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM COMMONWEALTH/STATE RELATION-
SHIP.

3. LANTZKE SAID THAT IN NEXT STEP IN PROCESS TOWARD
AUSTRALIAN MEMBERSHIP HE WOULD WRITE A FORMAL LETTER
TO AUSTRALIAN PERMREP OUTLINING IN DETAIL REQUIREMENTS
FOR IEA ADHERENCE. HE HOPED AUSTRALIAN INTERDEPART-
MENTAL REVIEW WOULD BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER.
IF THINGS WENT WELL, HE EXPECTED RESULT OF REVIEW TO
BE GOA LETTER OF INTENT TO JOIN IEA ON BASIS OF WHICH
GOVERNING BOARD COULD DISCUSS ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS
THAT WOULD APPLY. LANTZKE THOUGHT IT LOGICAL THAT
ARRANGEMENT BE MADE ALLOWING AUSTRALIA TO PHASE IN
COMPLIANCE WITH EMERGENCY STOCK REQUIREMENT.

4. PRIOR TO LANTZKE REPORT SUMMARIZED ABOVE, EUR/RPE
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF OECD AFFAIRS AND MISSION ENERGY
ADVISER HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH AUSTRALIAN
DEPUTY PERMREP AND SCIENCE COUNSELOR. DEPUTY PERMREP
SAID THAT ALL DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED IN REVIEW
SEEMED FAVORABLE TO IEA MEMBERSHIP. HIS PERSONAL
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PAGE 03 PARIS 13975 290010Z

PREDICTION WAS THAT CHANCES OF POSITIVE DECISION WERE
ABOUT 85 PERCENT. MAIN REASONS FOR POSITIVE ATTITU-
TUDE WERE 1) FACT THAT EARLIER FEARS THAT AGENCY
WOULD BE CONFRONTATIONAL VIS A VIS OIL PRODUCERS HAD
PROVEN INVALID AND 2) A DESIRE TO GAIN ACCESS TO
INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATE IN R & D PROGRAM.
AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION OFFICIALS ALSO POINTED TO STOCK
REQUIREMENTS AS MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEM.
DELEGATION OFFICIALS WERE SOMEWHAT LESS OPTIMISTIC
THAN LANTZKE ON TIMETABLE, BUT THOUGHT IT LIKELY
THAT INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE WOULD ISSUE FAVORABLE
REPORT BY THE END OF THE YEAR.
SALZMAN

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